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ORAL HISTORY

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Ray J. Kimball
Interviewer
SLG E

Address:

Date:

6/5/91

Interviewee

Address:

Luther D. Stoltz
Edw. dhl 62025

Date:

6-5-91

Date of Accession:

SIUE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Summer, 1990-91

Luther Statler Interview, June 5, 1991

Interviewed by Stanley B. Kimball

Filename: STATLER.65

Q: Luther Statler my friend for many years thanks for coming by, this June 5 to share your memories and reflections of many years at this University. When did you come to SIU anyway?

A: I have no idea. I don't remember. I really do not. I knew I was here about 27 years but...

Q: Well when did you retire?

A: About, it'll be three years this August.

Q: Ninety-one okay. You retired in '88. Twenty-seven - one - 6 - does 1961 sound about right.

A: Might be. It - you know that's a date of historical significance to some people but not for me. Sorry about that, I probably came in 1963.

Q: The real question is why did you come to SIU?

A: Do you really want to know the truth of why I came to SIUE originally?

Q: No. But I'll settle for it.

A: Okay. Since your in the historical business and reporting the truth... At the time I was working for a company over in St. Louis called Vicker's Electric which a division Sperry Rand.

To make a long story short the driving back and forth was atrocious and so I asked my wife one day I said, honey go out and make me an appointment for the Personnel Office to see if there's any type of job openings at the University.

Q: Was Charleen at the University then?

A: No. Huh-uh. No. I had been around a university for quite a few years. Not this one naturally, but I knew this was in the beginning of the development stage and I thought it might be an interesting place to work. So my wife made an appointment for me.

She calls up the Personnel Office and talks to a guy by the name of Morris Carr. This was on a Friday. I talked to Carr Saturday morning early. I immediately talked to another guy by the name of Carl Alford.

I got in an argument with him. I told him he wasn't doing a few things right or at least in my opinion he wasn't since I was in Purchasing. I knew a few things about inventory control and computers that he didn't. That was the end of it for that weekend with the exception that Monday morning when I was back over at Vicker's Electric I got a call from this Carl Alford and he said would you mind coming over and talking tonight to a guy by the name of Gene Peebles

This was the Monday after the first interview on a Saturday morning. Well I talked to Gene Peebles that Monday evening and then the next Tuesday morning I was offered a job at the University by means of the telephone and they wanted to know if I could come and work immediately and I said no I think I should at least give my present employer a two week notice. But that's how I came to the University.

Q: Interesting.

A: This was way before the days of affirmative action and so on so forth in job searches.

Q: I want you to walk us through your various positions here over these 27 years. I gather you started out in Purchasing.

A: No. I started in what was called Auxiliary Services. I was originally hired under the title I think of Supervisor of the Self Supporting Enterprises. That at that time was supposed to be the University Bookstores, Textbook Rental, Student Housing. I think that was it, those categories but I finally wound up with only Textbook Rental and University Bookstore.

Q: How long were you in Auxiliary Services?

A: Oh approximately a year and a half or two years.

Q: And then where did you go?

A: I moved to the general office at East St. Louis. I think the title then was called the Coordinator of the General Office at East St. Louis. This was about the period of time that some of the first major buildings were getting closer to being completed. Loren Young at that time was the coordinator of the General Office.

John Rendleman I understand brought Loren Young up from East St. Louis to finalize all the equipment purchases and so on so forth in the new buildings that were being occupied that Fall. Morris Carr had transferred out of the Personnel Office and he had originally moved to the General Office at East St. Louis to be the Coordinator. Bruce Brubaker at the time was the coordinator of the General Office at Alton.

Bruce decided to come back to the academic ranks. Morris, since he lived at Alton, put his name in for the Coordinator of the General Office at East St. Louis and I in the mean time had gotten my name in with Gene Peeble and a couple other people for some other opening someplace else in the University. So Gene Peeble asked me if I would be interested in going down and taking the position at East St. Louis.

Q: All right and how long did that last?

A: Oh, that was probably maybe three years. Somewhere in that time vicinity.

Q: All right.

A: My main purpose of being down there at the time was to close out the East St. Louis campus when we moved to Edwardsville.

Q: Oh, yes.

A: Remember all that. And when we moved to the Edwardsville campus all of our problems would be eliminated. You're laughing but remember. Oh, yeah. When we move to Edwardsville all of our problems will be taken care of.

Q: Then you came here and what have your various positions been here?

A: Well let me see. I said I was at East St. Louis for about approximately three years. What in the world is that?

Q: My air conditioner.

A: God you have all kinds of weird sounds down here. I had been at East St. Louis for say two and a half or three years and a guy by the name of, I think his name was Paul Kunkel . He had worked in the Academic Affairs Office. He resigned and went to work someplace else. Well I had gotten to know Bruce Thomas fairly well down at East St. Louis since he was about the only person that came down from the Edwardsville campus to East St. Louis during that time frame.

So he wanted to know if I would be interested in coming up to the Academic Affairs Office and take over quote space problems and a portion of what was Institutional Research. So I took Bruce up on

his offer and I moved to Edwardsville into the office of the Academic Affairs Office. He had Jim Comer there at the time. Jim Brown was there and of course Bruce.

Q: And then that was '65-'66 and how many positions have you held since?

A: Oh my goodness. Well let's see. I spent my largest amount of my time in the Office of Academic Affairs as assistant to the vice president/provost or a similar type title. Originally as I said I was just doing a few things that Institutional Research does now. Space, then I got involved in the support line budgets for the Academic Affairs Office. Then I wound up in charge of the budgetary responsibilities for the salary portion of the Academic Affairs budget and being involved in space I was also involved in most of the major renovation projects the capital budget was going and so forth.

Q: Were you at one time Space Czar?

A: They affectionately and unaffectionately called me that. I don't know why they called me that, I think I was fairly well liked on campus, but when people would come around they would say Statler your messing us up with space again. Remember the dean of the Grad School a little while ago? She was from P.E.

Q: Rosemary Archangel.

Q: Yes.

A: Yeah. Rosemary Archangel even one time accused me of trying to make extra offices out of elevators. Yeah I was unaffectionately and affectionately known as Space Czar at one time. This was way back when.

Q: Okay then what next?

A: I worked in the office of the V.P. and P., Jim Comer was there. I worked with Jim Brown of course with space. Then I worked with Jim Comer for space and support line budget. Then with Andy Kochman for space, support line budget, and the salary budget for the Academic Affairs Office in major renovation, but in space I, to some extent, had a direct reporting line to John Rendleman. I went through Andy.

Q: Who was president.

A: Who was president at the time, yeah.

Q: Then where?

A: Well like I said I spent most of my time in the Office of Academic Affairs when it was functioning and then...

Q: Were you there when you retired?

A: No. I was...for about - let's see - about five years I was I guess going to work under the title of Director of Supporting Services which is now Vice President of Administration. When I stepped down it was removed I guess I should say removed from office for various reasons. Ben Quillian now has that job and Earl Beard took it over.

Q: It took two men to replace you?

A: No. Earl Beard came in and took over. My title was eliminated and Earl Beard came in as Vice President for Administration. In the mean time he had Personnel also. So that was the main difference. And then when Earl Beard retired Ben Quillian took over as the Vice President for Administration. But prior to that I had all the - well I had all the the non-academic functions of the University with the exception of Personnel.

I spent my last two years over in the School of Business.

Q: You went on sabbatical.

A: I went on sabbatical for a year and then I taught one year in the School of Business and then that worked out. To make a long story short (word unclear) retirement agreement. I'm not so sure it was to everyone's complete satisfaction, but we both got our ways to some extent and if you were talking about me suing the University for this there was a hell of a lot better chance. This can be recorded. The University, particularly one office, is being sued for a hell of a lot more. As a matter of fact there's a rumor that maybe the files

have disappeared now, but there were a few registered letters sent to a specific office. Alerting a certain person that these have been brought to his attention and prior correspondence and there was a legal necessity to make sure that he had received the registered letters; to reconfirm that he had received all past correspondence.

Q: Regarding?

A: Regarding me and the University and a few Personnel maneuvers and a few thoughts pertaining to me, my old job, my early retirement agreement and a few other things.

Q: So...

A: I didn't really leave to some extent the University in the best graces of high level university administration.

Q: So there was some question, some problems when you left.

A: Well I don't know whether there's any questions or problems. It was probably more an interpretation of various administrative decisions and whether other people such as me agreed to those administrative decisions or whether they were being arbitrarily made. Now whether it's a problem I don't know.

Q: Let me try to bring this into focus. Were you treated fairly at retirement time?

A: Well let me put it like this. Fair is a matter of interpretation. I guess to some extent basically appropriate offices agreed to various things that I had suggested, not everything, but I think it was more of a compromise which supposedly all agreements are.

Q: Let me try this. If things had been different would you have stayed on longer?

A: If we would have had some change in various administrative personnel, probably yes. Which is I'm sure true if you could interview the right people now if there would be various change of administrative people they probably would not have retired when they did. Yes.

Q: So there have been some administrative problems.

A: Well it, you can call them administrative problems or you can call them administrative personnel problems. In any organization you're bound to have various disagreements pop up, misinterpretations, misunderstandings, and people not agreeing to various things.

Q: Why have you stayed so long at SIU?

A: Because it was basically an interesting, nice place to be and I also really way back when before a few things started developing. I really enjoyed working out here. I enjoyed helping people and I had

received a lot of interpersonal satisfaction out of being able to help a lot of the faculty members and some of the students and some of the civil service people. I enjoyed doing that, Stan. I really did. .

Q: One question I don't get to ask many people and that is when and why did your wife start working here at the same, while you were here?

A: Oh. She's a nurse and she did not want to work full time originally and there was an opening for a part time lab assistant or something over in the School of Nursing and I became aware of it.

Anyway I mentioned this to Charleen. She turned in her application and was accepted. She worked for the School of Nursing on a part time basis for one or two years teaching some type of lab over in the St. Louis area and in the mean time got to know a few people down in Health Service. There was an opening that came up in Health Service so she went down there to work. Originally it was only part time and part time led into full time and she spent about 22 years down in Health Service. So that's how she became employed.

Q: Over the years I was in there once in a while and always got very good treatment and was always happy when Nurse Statler was the one I ended up talking to and working with.

Over these many years what would you consider your most significant contributions to the University and to the community?

A: I don't really know. I thought I was fairly good at helping, I'm going to use the term manipulate the budget for the institution for everyone's use. I don't really know of any major significant contributions I have made to the community whatsoever with the exception that I have maybe hopefully been a good University employee and helped, indirectly helped the community. But what significant contribution I have made to this institution... I doubt if there's anything that comes out on a pedestal and sticks out of what great thing I had done.

Q: Let's let that question germinate.

A: Okay.

Q: And at any time you wish to refer back to it and I will refer back to it myself...

A: Okay.

Q: What were your greatest frustrations at SIUE?

A: One of my greatest frustrations when I was in the office of the V.P. and P. was when we finally got Buildings 2 and 3 on line and were trying to move people around. Talk about a complete total campus upheaval. Everybody was moving every place and no one was wanting do this and no one was wanting to move that. I (word unclear) we're gonna be (word unclear) and which wasn't the case that

every academic dean known to man on this campus was trying to hinder a move and all of them trying to grab every tid bit of space they could grab. That was kind of a frustrating experience.

One of the other probably big frustrating experiences was snow policy. That was a very frustrating experience, Stan.

Q: I remember those days.

A: Um-hmm. And oh you had minor day to day frustrations regarding this and that, but I think those two would stick out particularly trying to get the campus completely re-programmed and spaced and getting people to move in and move out and doing this and doing that and then the big snow storm. Even though it was by policy - everybody hating your guts so to speak.

Q: Well were you ever Snow Queen?

A: No. I never was Snow Queen.

Q: A little inside joke.

A: Yeah. Well let me get back to that. That damn position of Snow Queen and me Snow King was back in the old days when we had weather like that. There was one guy on this campus who made that decision and that was John Rendleman. Even though it was wrong he made it, but when Buz Shaw came into being he figured I'm not gonna put up the heat for this. I think even Andy Kochman made the decision. He thought this should have been an academic decision. But Buz Shaw

copped out on that thing and he made Rita Friters Snow Queen. Well by god the reason we're going to close this campus is due to inclement weather.

But the one damn person who made the decision when it was supposed to have been made at the appropriate level was John S. Rendleman. Now it's awfully nice for somebody higher up than you if you make a bad decision if I don't agree with it to bitch like hell at you. Why did you do that and then try to short guess you and that's happened and if you don't like the decisions I have made you make it yourself.

Q: Yes. You've made yourself very clear. Let's move on to some other frustrations.

A: Okay. Okay. I'd have to think about some more. Those are the two big ones that really stick out. The one on space and re-program and that and the snow question.

Q: What are some of your best memories around here?

A: Big memories or little memories?

Q: Let's try a few of each.

A: When I was at East St. Louis and Morris was president at the time when I was at East St. Louis and he at the time was kind of known to pop in unannounced at various locations and so on so forth and I was in the back part of the General Office one time and in

comes this guy. I thought well God I know I should know that guy and I do know that guy and he walks in and he says Mr. Statler I'm Dr. Morris and I've got my Lincoln parked down there, I think it was a Lincoln he drove, in a no parking zone. Can you take care of it. Well you better believe I can.

Q: Humorous experiences.

A: Humorous. Well in case you don't know it one of the big deals when I was in the Academic Affairs office is I was arrested by security.

Q: I did not know that.

A: I was. Very deliberately arrested by security.

Q: Why?

A: Because it was a misunderstanding about offices up there even though I was Space Czar. Somebody we both know decided that he was going to try to pull rank on me, Mr. Drda and we had two policeman who had been around a long time. This was before the days of Chuck McDonald I think - Bill Nave (sp unclear) and who in the heck was the other guy - Johnson. Anyway Drda and I got in a kind of a friendly argument and debate over various rooms and how big that room should be and big this should be and so on so forth. So he set me up to be arrested up in the V.P. office. I was in there talking. Andy was

aware of this. He was aware it was going to happen so he wasn't surprised. We were sitting up there. I was talking to Andy about something about the budget.

Q: Andrew Kochman.

A: Andrew Kochman. Um-hmm. And here comes these two guys from security. I get hand cuffed. I get read my rights and the whole works. Of course it was all in jest.

Of course I got back at Jack the next day. Since I was in charge of space I had a little influence over who could change keys and cores at the door so I had security come over and change a core on his door so he couldn't get in. That was one of them.

Q: Sounds like Laurel and Hardy.

A: It was to some extent.

Q: Some years ago when I was in my other office I came back after Christmas vacation and there was a professionally designed, obviously university sign that said Stanley B. Kimball, Office of the Campus Puritan.

A: Something like that.

Q: And I couldn't believe it. I said where did this come from? How did this happen and the secretary right across the aisle said well a couple of guys showed up and just put it there. Well I was honored and flattered and wondered because you just don't get University signs that quickly.

It's a lot of paperwork. It had to be someone who had some pull and anyway to make a long story short. It finally came down to it was either Luther Statler or Jack Drda or most likely both of those clowns did it and I very proudly... It stayed there for a long time and then when I moved - well it didn't get quite put back up down here in this office, but I have it and it is I must say quite typical of the Luther Statler style, shall we say, around this University. But you must have done an awful lot of things right or you wouldn't have lasted 27 years.

A: I don't know. Either that or I was lucky, probably lucky, Stan.

Q: Well a little bit of both.

A: Probably lucky.

Q: Lets stay with the humorous stories for a while if you care to share any others.

A: I don't know whether it's a humorous story or not, but Textbook Rental way back when - when we were over in the Wagner Plant. The library was over there also. You know textbook rental, all these

books. The library had all those books over there but there was an interconnecting doorway between the two which you could lock and unlock.

Now somebody came, some male, I don't know who it was... I think the guy has now left. He came over and the floor was uneven and he came over and wanted one of my - our textbooks so he could put it under his table legs so his table wouldn't wobble and I could only say, Well God damn it. Use one of your own damn books you dumb shit and he turned around and walked out.

Q: Oh, that's great.

Q: Comment please on, for years you were a member of what we call the lunch time Piranha Table.

A: The Piranha Table. Um-hmm. That elite group of people I guess.

Q: Oh, very.

A: You, me, ...

Q: Kind of a floating crap game. People float in and float out.

A: Kind of a floating crap game. People weren't sure whether they should join us or not.

Q: One thing about that...

A: That was a very humorous table.

Q: It was. Very candid.

A: Um-hmm. Very candid.

Q: To my knowledge none of us ever regretted saying anything.

A: No.

Q: That is nobody ever blew the whistle.

A: No. Yeah. I think that's what I was getting ready to say, Stan, that there were quite often a few things said at that table but they stayed at the table. They just stayed there.

Q: Seriously it was a great lunch.

A: Um-hmm.

Q: Perhaps 30 or 40 members that floated in and out. Anywhere from six to ten at a day.

A: Um-hmm.

Q: And nothing was off limits and everything was confidential and it still exists...

A: Oh, does it still exist?

Q: Yes, but it's not... It's glory days I suspect are over. I eat lunch there everyday. That's one of, I enjoy immensely lunch time here with my colleagues at that crazy table, but regrettably it's not quite as sparkly as it used to be especially when you and Hollis White and Jack Drda were there.

Q: You guys kept it a little more lively than it is now.

What are your worst memories around here over 27 years?

A: My worst memories. I'm not sure I really have any worst memories, Stan. I just don't really think I have any bad memories.

There are a few things that keep me confused about the place and questions about it but that's not the same as worst memories.

Q: Well let me ask you a question which you may not wish to comment on further but up front in a somewhat oblique way you talked about the less than ideal circumstances that caused you to retire. I gather there were some personality conflicts. A not uncommon problem of course.

A: Um-hmm. In my opinion, without mentioning any names, there would only be one person who I could be making reference to, but I perceived a complete lack of integrity and in honesty in one person on this campus at one time.

Q: Toward you.

A: And a few other things. He did things in my opinion that a professional would not do particularly a professional in such a position. (word unclear) like we hide money. We did this. We had to repair things. We had to do them on the sly. Like fix and paint the damn water tower. I had to fix that son of a bitch on the sly so it wouldn't go down, but we had to make a symbol of that son of a bitch.

Q: I don't think anybody knows this or very few.

A: Well no. Not many people would know because we were quite successful in getting the water tower fixed at the same time we used it as a god damn blazing symbol of how much money we didn't have.

There were also a few things in my estimation about the - (word unclear) one of my favorite buildings--that god damn Vadalabene Center. I mean that, there were a few people on this campus and also at the board, staff of us know that there was an engineering report made on that God damn building. I've still got a copy of it. You may call it for self preservation and protection, but when I gave that report to somebody it just seemed like the world fell in even though it was a confidential document.

Q: You are referring to the fact that after the building was accepted so many problems showed up.

A: Let me put it like this. I never accepted the building from the University. I don't whether it's even been accepted now or not. I shouldn't have had (word unclear) all these years.

Q: But you are referring to the problems that showed up after we got into it.

A: After they got into it. Um-hmm.

Q: Accepted or otherwise.

A: Accepted or otherwise. Yeah.

Q: Yes. I remember that there were many leaks.

A: This was well, most of this was well documented with an engineering report by an off site consulting firm which was saying how bad the building was and I got my butt chewed out almost... This was a frustrating experience which to me gets back to hate. If we've got things wrong like this, we should be aware of it and tell the appropriate people.

I guess I just better leave it by saying by my estimation of the integrity and honesty of someone, one of this this campus' administrator's is not too awfully high. I wouldn't trust them any further than I could throw this building. It may be a personal bias.

Q: That is candid and I hope you don't edit it out when you see the typed up script.

A: No, because I think if necessary, if ever I need to, I think I can present enough documentation if I have to. I never plan on it but...

Q: That building raised other problems. Design, some of us were quite concerned over what we considered poor design.

A: Well see I didn't get involved in it on the design stage of it and so forth. I just got involved in it when I was the Director of Supporting Services and they started construction very shortly thereafter.

Q: Did you ever negotiate with unions?

A: No. Not directly. When I became Director of Supporting Services all labor negotiations was to have been handled by the Personnel Office which was a mistake too. See at the time when I was director of Supporting Services and prior to that most of the unionized people were strictly in the Supporting Services area - the crafts, the carpenters, and the electrician so on, so on so forth.

No one throughout the rest of the University really had any negotiation problems. We had the teamsters and of course like I said the crafts and so on so forth but I don't really think the University became aware of too many negotiation things until the clerical staff and other segments of the University started to organize.

Q: I have heard you comment over the years on labor matters. Would it be fair to say that you were pretty well informed on labor matters on this campus?

A: In those areas that I was over yeah. I was aware of the various contracts, the rates of pay and so on so forth. Our hourly requirements and all that kind of stuff, the formal and some of the informal work rules.

Q: I would like some opinion of yours on this campus and labor relations over the years.

A: Oh, okay. It's not an unfair question. It's a good question. Way back when again it was basically Physical Plant and a few other subsidiary units such as the Police we were organized. To some great extent you knew the work rules and in my own opinion, our relations with organized labor is that it was pretty damn good. It really was, in my opinion. I think most labor experts will tell you that if you have unionization it is brought about by bad administrative practice. It's a response to something which is not quite right.

It may not be the appropriate response or it may be. I think most labor experts will tell you that, that unionization is brought about by bad administrative practices whatever that may be. That may not be appropriate here. I don't know but if you look back historically and even though you know those crafts and other areas were unionized and there were good union people and bad union people just like there are good professors and bad professors.

Some of them would cut their left testicles off for the University and some of them could care less. You could pin point the exact one. Some of the would, some of the union people would try to take us for a ride and others would do everything they could to

help. At one time organized labor, and if John Rendleman were around and Morris they could probably substantiate this, but they can't, they probably backed this place 100 percent for whatever reason.

It may have been that he was the type that could really train to get so many people on, but organized labor helped develop this campus. I think if you looked back at some of the old historical documents on some of the various fund drives and so on so forth, I think you'll find organized labor as such in and around and heavily involved in it. Your labor relations now within the past five or six years, my own opinion for what it's worth are atrocious. In my opinion IBM would have a much better record of labor relations than this campus has. I do talk to a few people still out here, still working and some of them are very candid and most of them I know real well and they say hey I've only got so many more years then I can retire and get out of this fuckin' place.

Q: Why...what has happened from the good 'ol days and today?

A: You've been humanized.

Q: I don't understand.

A: Well it's coming from on the high. The University is being humanized.

Q: You're saying that satirically?

A: Yes. I am because I know where that came from. I know people won't admit it but I do know who it came from and I'm not going to mention the Civil Service name who was on such and such a committee who sent a recommendation to such and such an office and said that this institution should be more humane.

Well somebody else looked at that and said we will make this institution humane. We will humanize it, but that reference was being made to an office and the auto - dictatorial, autocratic, administrative (word unclear) was being (word unclear) and the institution was being (word unclear).

Q: Well then is it fair to say that in your opinion the labor relations with this campus over the years have deteriorated primarily because of a change in University administrators? Is it largely the University's fault?

A: Humble opinion without any facts to back it up, yes.

Q: Well let's start there. You're well informed. You were in Personnel.

A: Yes. It is either the board policy to resist unionization and that is being carried out fairly effectively by those members of the institution that the board wants them to carry out. Why are you going to have this election this week?

Q: You are referring to the June 7th election...

A: The faculty - um-hmm.

Q: ...sponsored by the IEA/NEA to unionize this faculty.

A: Um-hmm.

Q: Well you've asked me a question. Let me answer it. I have no quarrel with the present unions on this campus. I personally am against the IEA/NEA unionizing the faculty, but that does not make me anti-union and that's probably enough of my comment there...

A: Um-hmm.

Q: ...but I think the parallel perhaps that you are drawing and it may be a legitimate one, that many of those pro-union are discouraged with some administrators and perhaps the parallel you're drawing is that labor also has become discouraged with some administrators over the years.

A: Yeah. Now you've also got something else you have to throw in here too, that if you look at the numbers of organized labor throughout the country - factory jobs and so on so forth, they are declining very rapidly.

Q: Yes.

A: So to counteract that many unions are trying to unionize more and more white collar workers and more and more quote professionals so there's a counter balancing thing to that so it's not all black and white, Stan. Let me put it like this. If I were still here - and this is what was bugging me before I left, if there was going to be a vote for a union and thank God it didn't have to make the decision because you know you got good people on both sides...

Q: Yes. That's what's tough.

A: That's the hard part of it and particularly since I knew I was leaving. I had a full vote though just like you of whether I should or should not vote for the union and at the time if they would have had a vote, I may have been one of the seventh who would have slowly moved the other way. If there had been a couple more people like me and maybe Wiley. You ought to talk to Wiley if he'll talk to you. Wiley...

Q: Deane Wiley?

A: Uh-huh. He had been around a long time. That's another one. That's another one, another humorous occasion and that sweet old guy. Moving to the Rendleman Building, a dean is supposed to have curtains in there office right?

Q: I guess.

A: Well they think so anyway. He was right down underneath John Rendleman's office. Well naturally the president's office gets curtains first right? Custom made to fit all those windows and everything and one day Wiley walks up in my office and says Statler what is this? You guys have got curtains and I said the deans don't deserve curtains. So he crawls up on my desk and acts like he's gonna take the damn curtains down. Well it just so happened I think the next week the curtain people came in and installed his curtains in his office.

Q: Now Wiley was dean of Education.

A: He was the dean of the School of Education then. Yeah.

Q: Yes. Just so we know who we're talking about. All right.

A: But he was gonna steal my curtains.

Q: Now you mentioned that when you came aboard in about 1961 it was a fairly simple interview and a phone call because then we did not have equal opportunity programs and all of that. Let me ask you. In your opinion how affective has the University been in fair employment, equal employment over the years?

A: I really think they've been as fair as you could be really, Stan. I may be wrong in that. I have no figures or anything to look at but they've sacrificed a little bit here and a little bit there where maybe they shouldn't have. And you know that's just a humble opinion.

Q: All right. This is somewhat analogous. I ask - well I will ask you because you - you maintained your rank in the School of Business so while you spent most of your time in administration you did do at least two years teaching. Did you teach more than two years?

A: I think at the time I had to teach part time I think for five years, Stan.

Q: In this area were you ever involved in any unusual ways, well for example in any educationally deprived student programs?

A: Not directly. I was in the peripheral of one down at East St. Louis Experiment in Higher Education.

Q: What was that?

A: I think they were supposed to have picked students who may not have finished high school or had finished high school, but had the intellectual ability to attend an institution of higher learning and after a certain amount of remedial instruction and assistance and everything, they could go ahead and continue with their studies and hopefully graduate from a place like this.

Q: A moment ago you suggested that I should interview Deane Wiley. If I could interview only two or three other people, who would you recommend?

A: I'd suggest you contact Dean Wiley and Jack Drda might be an interesting person to talk to.

Q: All right.

A: He has a lot of historical tid bits of information about this place.

Q: Now looking back over the subjects we've talked about is there anything you would like to add to any part of the interview?

A: None right now .I just thought of a name.

Q: All right, good.

A: I don't know whether you could ever find him or if he'd respond, Andrew J. Kochman. In my humble opinion he could have made a great president if they would have let him. He is down in Florida.

Q: Yes. I believe he is. That was sad the way he was frankly eased out.

A: Oh, yeah.

Q: He was vice president and provost and was not even considered, - not even nominated...for the presidential office.

Based upon your experience at SIUE, what contributions do you believe the University has made to the area as a whole?

A: Economic or otherwise?

Q: Any way you want to field it.

A: Well you know there's no doubt in my mind that it's made all kinds of economic contributions. You know just the amount of money the state pours into this area through this institution. That ought to speak for itself.

Q: All right.

A: As a good stable source of income and so on so forth. I think there are other more intangible things of what we were originally set up to do.)

Q: How have we met, in your opinion, the educational needs of southwestern Illinois? Have we done a good job?

A: I believe I don't have anything to base an opinion on that, Stan. I really don't. I just have no feeling whatsoever on that. We might... Well now wait a minute. We must have done a great job. I'm being hypercritical.

Q: A moment ago you said you were sorry. I'm not sure in what context but I'm sure, Luther, if it makes you feel any better, future readers of these archival materials will bless you for having been so candid and we are doing this for the future.

You have done an excellent job. You may add of course if you want to take the effort. When you get this rough transcription there will be a cover letter explaining some things, highlighting it. If you wish to add anything, please do.

A: Okay.

Q: And so once again thanks for coming by. Thanks for leveling with posterity.

A: Whatever leveling means.

Q: You and I will have no idea of what use will ever be made of this but it'll be around long after we're gone.

A: Do you really think so?

Q: And I'm sure a lot of people are going to...

A: Maybe not.

Q: ...be well rewarded reading your comments.

A: What they're going to do is put this in a time capsule.

Q: Maybe.

A: They're going to close it up in a time capsule and 125 years from now it'll psht, here comes your work, Stan.

Q: Well on that happy bit of whimsy, Luther, thanks so much.

Index

A

Academic Affairs Office, 5, 15

Alford, Carl, 2

Alton, 11, 4

Archangel, Rosemary, 6

Auxiliary Services, 3

B

Beard, Earl, 8

Brown, James, 6, 7

Brubaker, Bruce, 4, 6

C

Carr, Morris, 2, 4

Civil Service, 26 passim

Comer, Jim, 6, 7

D

Director of Supporting

Services, 8, passim

Drda, Jack, 15, 17, 20, 31

E

East St. Louis, 11, 4, passim

Edwardsville, 11, 5, passim

Experiment in Higher Education,
30

F

Fair employment practice, 29

Friters, Rita, 14

H

Health Service, 11

K

Kochman, Andy, 7, 16, 31

Kunkel, Paul, 5

M

McDonald, Charles, 15

Morris, Delyte, 14, 25

N

Nave, Bill, 15

O

Office of Academic Affairs, 6,
passim

P

Peebles, Gene, 3, 4

Personnel Office, 2

Pirana Table, 18-20

Problems, 9

Purchasing, 3

Q

Quillian, Ben, 8

R

Rendleman, John, 4, 7, 13, 14,
25

Resident Campus Puritan, 16

S

School of Business, 8, 30

School of Education, 29

School of Nursing, 11

Shaw, Buzz, 13

Snow policy, 13

Space Czar , 6

Statler, Charleen, 2, 11

Supporting Services, 23

U

Unions, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28

V

Vadalabene Center, 21

Vicker's Electric, 2

W

Water tower, 21

White, Hollis, 20

Wiley, Deane, 28, 29

Y

Young, Loren, 4